

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 3012
6 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--May 1983

I. GENERAL

Most of the African continent is feeling the effects of an extensive drought, which is causing severe water shortages even in areas which usually receive plentiful rainfall. Reservoirs are low, and widespread famine is possible in many areas as crops fail and livestock die of thirst. The drought problem is less serious in Ivory Coast, but the lack of water in reservoirs has begun to effect the country's electricity output, most of which is supplied by hydroelectric power. On 22 May the national power company announced that power would be rationed, with outages of up to five hours daily in Abidjan. Shortly after this announcement, however, the summer rainy season began. Water levels in the country's reservoirs have been rising, and the power rationing plan has not yet been put into effect.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. After receiving a cruising message from Jordan Bureau providing new frequencies for the Pan-African News Agency (PANA), the bureau began monitoring the agency on the 18th, filing its first two items from the service on that date. The agency formally began operations on the 25th, the 20th anniversary of the OAU's founding. PANA transmissions from the agency's headquarters in Dakar to Lusaka and Khartoum are generally well received in Abidjan. Typically, PANA may carry a few items which it originates itself and then picks up items from African national agencies. These include agencies already monitored by FBIS such as SUNA, NAN, ANGOP, TAP and MAP, but also others which have no transmission facilities of their own including the Cameroonian news service and GNA. These should provide some unique material. The agency says it will begin filing about 8,000 words daily but will build its file up to about 25,000 eventually.

2. On the 17th, the DCM notified the bureau that the Embassy had received indications that something unusual was happening in Upper Volta. An open watch was instituted on Ouagadougou Radio and a statement by Head of State Ouedraogo concerning dissent within the ruling People's Salvation Council (CSP) was monitored. The statement said the CSP had decided to "dismiss all those who try to make the council deviate from its initial path." The main dissident was Prime Minister Thomas Sankara, known for his pro-Libyan attitude, who AFP reported had been arrested the day before. AFP also reported that troops were in the streets and the airport closed. The French president's adviser on

African affairs arrived the following day amid speculation that France was behind the purging of pro-Libyan elements. AFP reported on the 19th that the Libyan ambassador had been ordered out, and Libyan reporting openly sided with Sankara. The radio reported Sankara's arrest on the 19th, which was followed by pro-Sankara demonstrations. The government warned it would take strong action against demonstrators. On the 22nd, the radio announced that the youth minister and other prominent people had also been arrested. Finally, on the 25th, the post of prime minister was suspended and new military leaders named. The GOIC received copies of this material expeditiously.

3. AFP reported on the 24th that Nigerian planes had been carrying out bombing operations in Chad for three days, in the same area where Nigerian and Chadian troops clashed in April. Lagos Domestic and International Services were silent on the subject until the 25th, when Lagos reported a news conference statement by Foreign Minister Audu denying that there had been any bombing raids and saying that all border clashes had ended. He also charged that anti-Habre guerrillas had incited the incidents.

4. The GOIC and the Abidjan Embassy, not to mention the Accra Embassy, remain highly concerned about the situation in Ghana amid reports of dissent and rumors of more serious action, much of it stimulated by opposition to the new budget. The National Defense Council issued a statement supporting the government on the 8th which was defensive in tone. The universities were closed on the 9th and 10th after reports of violent demonstrations. And the radio cited press reports of violent protests against the budget and a threat by the Association of Recognized Professional Bodies to go on strike on the 13th and 15th respectively. On the weekend of the 14th, the DCM was sufficiently concerned to ask that a special package of current materials on Ghana be sent to Ivorian Foreign Minister Ake at home to keep him up to date on the situation.

5. On the 31st, considerable interest was expressed at the Embassy Country Team meeting about a bureau-monitored AFP French item datelined Paris citing charges by a leader of an Ivorian "opposition group" that political prisoners were being held in Ivorian prisons. This item, together with an earlier AFP French item monitored by the bureau, were the first indications of any organized opposition in the Ivory Coast, although it is not clear how large or effective this opposition is. The bureau had alerted the political officer to the item.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

Personnel

1. Editor [] arrived on the 18th, replacing []
[] left on the 31st for home leave and lateral assignment
to Seoul Bureau.

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2. Bureau Technician [] received a periodic step increase on
the 29th, to FSN 9/4.

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IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Embassy in Ouagadougou sponsored the second annual SOFANWET (softball fanatics weekend tournament) over the Memorial Day Weekend. Five teams from Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and Niger participated in this World Series of West African softball. The Abidjan team successfully defended the title it won in last year's inaugural tournament, overwhelming the opposition with robust hitting and a dazzling innovation on West African diamonds--matching T-shirts. The bureau chief put to rest some premature gossip about his advancing years by hitting a tournament-leading .733 in five games. He is now contemplating retirement from such endeavors rather than try to prove that this year was no fluke.

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

ABIDJAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1983

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	223,940
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	17,520
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	655

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	7,424	27,000	115

(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

ANGOLA

LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	2,050	
LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	500	
LUANDA ANGOP IN FRENCH		7,490
LUANDA ANGOP IN PORTUGUESE		

BENIN

COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,990
COTONOU EHUZU IN FRENCH	

CAMEROON

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	3,270
YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	

CONGO

BRAZZAVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	500
BRAZZAVILLE BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN IN FRENCH	
BRAZZAVILLE ETUMBA IN FRENCH	

CAPE VERDE

PRAIA PODZI IN PORTUGUESE	
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CHAD

BARDAI CHADIAN NATIONAL RADIO (ANTI-HABRE)	8,820
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FRANCE

PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH	37,130
PARIS AFP IN FRENCH	31,070
PARIS DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,720
PARIS DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1,800
PARIS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN FRENCH	

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
GABON			
LIBREVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,230		
LIBREVILLE AFRICA NO.1 IN FRENCH	2,240		
LIBREVILLE L'UNION IN FRENCH			
GAMBIA			
BANJUL GAMBIA NEWS BULLETIN IN ENGLISH			
GHANA			
ACCRA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	30,540		
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA GHANAIAN TIMES IN ENGLISH			600
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC IN ENGLISH			530
ACCRA WEEKLY SPECTATOR IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA THE MIRROR IN ENGLISH			
GUINEA BISSAU			
BISSAU NO PINTCHA IN PORTUGUESE			
GUINEA			
CONAKRY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	4,020		
CONAKRY HOROYA IN FRENCH			
IVORY COAST			
ABIDJAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	2,250		
ABIDJAN FRATERNITE MATIN IN FRENCH			4,310
ABIDJAN INFORMATION IN FRENCH			
LIBERIA			
MONROVIA RADIO ELWA IN ENGLISH	4,300		
MONROVIA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	2,730		
MONROVIA EXPRESS IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA LIBERIAN INAUGURAL IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA NEW LIBERIAN IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA THE SUND PEOPLE IN ENGLISH			
MALI			
BAMAKO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	4,880		
BAMAKO L'ESSOR IN FRENCH			
MAURITANIA			
NOUAKCHOTT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,300		
NOUAKCHOTT CHAAB IN FRENCH			

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
NIGER			
NIAHEY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	850		
NIAHEY LE SAHEL IN FRENCH			
NIAHEY SAHEL HEBDO IN FRENCH			
NIGERIA			
LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	7,950		
LAGOS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH	4,670		
KADUNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	240		
NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) IN ENGLISH		7,040	
SENEGAL			
DAKAR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	2,960		
DAKAR LE SOLEIL IN FRENCH			
DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH		5,770	
SIERRA LEONE			
FREETOWN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	3,320		
FREETOWN DAILY MAIL IN ENGLISH			100
TOGO			
LOME DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	14,700		
TOGO NOUVELLE MARCHE IN FRENCH			
UPPER VOLTA			
OUAGADOUGOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	15,790		
OUAGADOUGOU L'OBSERVATEUR IN FRENCH			
ZAIRE			
KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	160		
KINSHASA AZAP IN FRENCH		1,040	
KINSHASA ELIMA IN FRENCH			
LUBUMBASHI NJUMBE IN FRENCH			